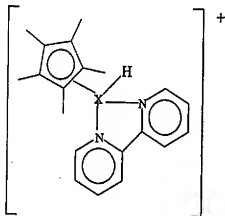


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1.- 2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently amended) A method for generating an acid, said method comprising:

(a) providing a metal hydride complex of the following formula (I) dissolved in a solution consisting essentially of a solvent



(I)

wherein X represents a metal atom; and

(b) exciting the metal hydride complex by irradiating the complex with a laser beam until deprotonation of the metal hydride complex takes place; thereby

(c) producing an acidic solution.

4. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid of claim 3, wherein the metal hydride complex is dissolved in an organic solvent.

5. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid of claim 3, wherein the metal hydride complex is dissolved in water.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid of claim 3, wherein the metal atom is iridium.

8. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid of claim 3, wherein the metal atom is ruthenium.

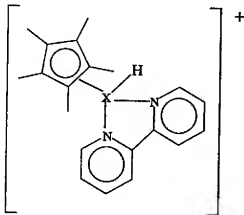
9. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid of claim 3, wherein the metal atom is rhodium.

10. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid of claim 3, wherein the metal atom is cobalt.

11. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid of claim 4, wherein the organic solvent is one or more of acetonitrile, a primary, secondary or tertiary alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide and ethyl acetate.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for generating an acid for a chemically-amplified photoresist or a color filter for liquid crystals, said method comprising:

(a) providing a metal hydride complex of formula (I) dissolved in a solution consisting essentially of a solvent



(I)

wherein X represents a metal atom; and

(b) exciting the metal hydride complex by irradiating the complex with a laser beam until deprotonation of the metal hydride complex takes place; thereby

(c) producing an acidic solution.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid for a chemically-amplified photoresist or a color filter for liquid crystals of claim 12, wherein the metal atom is iridium.

15. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid for a chemically-amplified photoresist or a color filter for liquid crystals of claim 12, wherein the metal atom is ruthenium.

16. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid for a chemically-amplified photoresist or a color filter for liquid crystals of claim 12, wherein the metal atom is rhodium.

17. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid for a chemically-amplified photoresist or a color filter for liquid crystals of claim 12, wherein the metal atom is cobalt.

18. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid of claim 12, wherein the metal hydride complex is dissolved in an organic solvent.

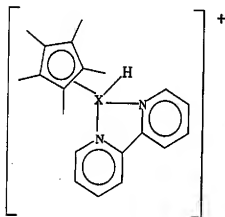
19. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid of claim 12, wherein the metal hydride complex is dissolved in water.

20. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid of claim 18, wherein the organic solvent is one or more of acetonitrile, a primary, secondary or tertiary alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide and ethyl acetate.

21. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid of claim 4, wherein the organic solvent is methanol.

22. (Previously presented) The method for generating an acid of claim 18, wherein the organic solvent is methanol.

23. (New) A method for generating an acid, said method comprising:  
(a) providing a metal hydride complex of the following formula (I) in solution



(I)

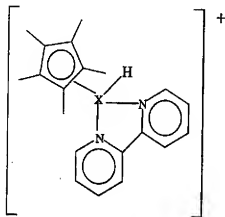
wherein X represents a metal atom; and

(b) exciting the metal hydride complex by irradiating the complex with a laser beam until deprotonation of the metal hydride complex takes place wherein deprotonation is caused only by excitation by said laser beam; thereby

(c) producing an acidic solution.

24. (New) A method for generating an acid, said method consisting essentially of:

(a) providing a metal hydride complex of the following formula (I) in solution



(I)

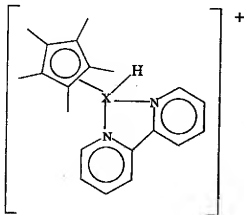
wherein X represents a metal atom; and

(b) exciting the metal hydride complex by irradiating the complex with a laser beam until deprotonation of the metal hydride complex takes place; thereby

(c) producing an acidic solution.

25. (New) A method for generating an acid for a chemically-amplified photoresist or a color filter for liquid crystals, said method comprising:

(a) providing a metal hydride complex of formula (I) in solution



(I)

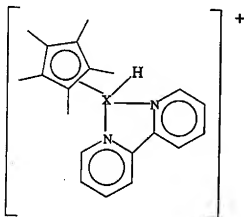
wherein X represents a metal atom; and

(b) exciting the metal hydride complex by irradiating the complex with a laser beam until deprotonation of the metal hydride complex takes place wherein deprotonation is caused only by excitation by said laser beam; thereby

(c) producing an acidic solution.

26. (New) A method for generating an acid for a chemically-amplified photoresist or a color filter for liquid crystals, said method consisting essentially of:

(a) providing a metal hydride complex of formula (I) in solution



(I)

wherein X represents a metal atom; and

(b) exciting the metal hydride complex by irradiating the complex with a laser beam until deprotonation of the metal hydride complex takes place; thereby

(c) producing an acidic solution.